

Message Text

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43 L

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 DODE-00 SP-03

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 SAJ-01 DRC-01

/075 W

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R 301230Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7945

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 1708

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, NG, FR

SUBJ: FRENCH HINTS AT U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN NIGER COUP

REF: STATE 109831 AND ABIDJAN 4043

1. DAO'S CONDUCT AND CONTACTS DURING APRIL 7-9
VISIT NIAMEY WERE NORMAL AND ROUTINE. CHARGE CLEARED
EVERY APPOINTMENT BEFOREHAND AND WAS BRIEFED FULLY ON
SUBJECTS DISCUSSED. THERE IS NO RPT NO BASIS FOR ALLE-
GATIONS HE ACTED IN ANY WAY IMPROPER OR QUOTE BIZARRE
UNQUOTE.

2. CONCERNING FRENCH INSPIRED RUMOR OF ALLEGED U.S.
INVOLVEMENT IN NIGER COUP, IT MAY BE OF SOME INTEREST
TO NOTE THAT DURING CONVERSATION EARLY IN MAY FRENCH
AMBASSADOR GASCHIGNARD ASKED DCM WHETHER HE HAD READ
ARTICLES IN FRENCH PRESS PARTICULARLY APRIL 22 ISSUE
OF LE POINT HINTING AT AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT IN NIGER
COUP. DCM SAID HE HAD READ SEVERAL INCLUDING LE
POINT ARTICLE AND FOUND THEM ABSURD. AMBASSADOR SAID
HE GENERALLY AGREED WITH DCM AND WANTED GIVE HIS
PERSONAL ASSURANCES THAT FRENCH EMBASSY NIAMEY
IN ITS REPORTING HAD IN NO WAY IMPLIED US INVOLVEMENT
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IN COUP.

3. CURRENTLY NEITHER AFRICANS NOR FRENCH IN NIAMEY
SEEM TO GIVE ANY SERIOUS CREDENCE TO ALLEGATIONS OF
US INVOLVEMENT IN COUP. WE WOULD, THEREFORE, SUGGEST
LETTING MATTER REST.
HECK

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: ShawDG
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